

[Mr. INHOFE] and the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] were added as cosponsors of S. 943, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the application of the act popularly known as the "Death on the High Seas Act" to aviation accidents.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill ordering the preparation of a Government report detailing injustices suffered by Italian-Americans during World War II, and a formal acknowledgement of such injustices by the President.

S. 982

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, a bill to provide for the protection of the flag of the United States and free speech, and for other purposes.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to require Federal agencies to assess the impact of policies and regulations on families, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 30, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Republic of China should be admitted to multilateral economic institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

SENATE RESOLUTION 98

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 98, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the conditions for the United States becoming a signatory to any international agreement on greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

BUMPERS AMENDMENT NO. 944

Mr. BUMPERS proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1034) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 70, strike lines 17 through 18, and insert in lieu thereof the following: "sion and administrative aircraft, \$3,826,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 1999. *Provided*, that of the funds made available in this bill, no funds shall be expended on the space station program, except for termination costs."

D'AMATO AMENDMENT NO. 945

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. D'AMATO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 1034, *supra*; as follows:

On page 16, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

SEC. 108. (a) Not later than 4 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the allocation of health care resources by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under the Veterans Integrated Service Network system and the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation System. The report shall address the following:

(1) The manner in which health care resources (including personnel and funds) are allocated under the Veterans Integrated Service Network system and the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation system.

(2) Whether or not the allocation of health care resources under the systems takes into account the disproportionate number of veterans with special needs who reside in the northeastern United States.

(3) The effect of the allocation of health care resources under the systems on the quality of health care services provided by the Secretary to veterans who reside in the northeastern United States.

(4) The effect of the allocation of health care resources under the systems on the access to health care services provided by the Secretary to veterans who reside in the northeastern United States.

(b) Not later than 4 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall also submit to Congress a report on the effect of the reform of the eligibility of veterans for health care services under title I of Public Law 104-262 (110 Stat. 3178), and the amendments made by that title, on the quality of and access to health care provided by the Secretary to veterans who reside in the northeastern United States.

THE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATION, 1998

FORD (AND MCCONNELL) AMENDMENT NO. 946

Mr. BURNS (for Mr. FORD, for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 2016) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following:

SEC. . Section 303(e) of the 1997 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from Natural Disasters, and for Overseas Peacekeeping Efforts, Including Those in Bosnia (Public Law 105-18; 111 Stat. 168) is amended to read as follows:

"(e) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may use funds available in the Defense Working Capital Fund for the payment

of the costs of utilities, maintenance and repair, and improvements entered into under the lease under this section."

THE DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

ALLARD AMENDMENT NO. 947

Mr. ALLARD proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1034, *supra*; as follows:

On page 21, line 16, insert before the period at the end the following: "": *Provided further*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$290,000,000 shall be made available for tenant-based assistance in accordance with section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937".

GRAHAM AMENDMENT NO. 948

Mr. GRAHAM proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1034, *supra*; as follows:

On page 85, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

SEC. 423. SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING CATASTROPHIC NATURAL DISASTERS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) catastrophic natural disasters are occurring with great frequency, a trend that is likely to continue for several decades according to prominent scientists;

(2) estimated damage to homes, buildings, and other structures from catastrophic natural disasters has totaled well over \$100,000,000,000 during the last decade, not including the indirect costs of the disasters such as lost productivity and economic decline;

(3) the lack of adequate planning for catastrophic natural disasters, coupled with inadequate private insurance, has led to increasing reliance on the Federal Government to provide disaster relief, including the appropriation of \$40,000,000,000 in supplemental funding since 1989;

(4) in the foreseeable future, a strong likelihood exists that the United States will experience a megacatastrophe, the impact of which would cause widespread economic disruption for homeowners and businesses and enormous cost to the Federal Government; and

(5) the Federal Government has failed to anticipate catastrophic natural disasters and take comprehensive action to reduce their impact.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should consider legislation that embodies the following principles:

(1) Persons who live in areas at risk of natural disaster should assume a practical level of personal responsibility for the risks through private insurance.

(2) The insurance industry, in partnership with the Federal Government and other private sector entities, should establish new mechanisms for the spreading of the risk of catastrophes that minimize the involvement and liability of the Federal Government.

(3) A partnership should be formed between the private sector and government at all levels to encourage better disaster preparation and respond quickly to the physical and financial impacts of catastrophic natural disasters.